

"Karl Barth and the Christian Proclamation to a Post-Christian World"

KBS CONFERENCE JUNE 8-9 AT ELMHURST COLLEGE

Time is drawing near for the 1995 summer conference sponsored by the Karl Barth Society of North America. The conference will be held June 8-9 on the campus of Elmhurst College. The college is located 16 miles west of downtown Chicago and 6 miles southwest of O'Hare International Airport (see map).

The program will feature four presentations on the theme: **"Karl Barth and the Christian Proclamation to a Post-Christian World."**

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KARL BARTH SOCIETY

Readers of the Newsletter (and anyone else who is interested) are invited to join the Karl Barth Society of North America.

To become a member of the Barth Society, send your name, address, and annual dues of \$10.00 to:

Professor Russell Palmer
Dept. of Philosophy and Religion
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, NE 68182-0265

Members whose dues were last paid prior to May 1994 are urged to send in their annual renewal.

Barth Society program planned for 1995 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

For the seventh year in a row, the Karl Barth Society will sponsor a program just prior to the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, to be held in Philadelphia in November.

There will be a session on Friday afternoon, November 17, with a second session on Saturday morning, November 18.

The AAR/SBL Annual Meeting officially begins on Saturday afternoon. The Barth Society sessions are usually listed under "other meetings" in the program book.

Program suggestions may be sent to Walter Lowe (Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta) or to the Newsletter Editor.

The conference theme will be addressed by **John Howard Yoder** (University of Notre Dame), **Walter Lowe** (Candler School of Theology, Emory University), **George Hunsinger** (Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton), and **Scott Rodin** (Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia).

Ron Goetz, President of the KBSNA and conference coordinator, comments:

"The Karl Barth Society of North America has sponsored a number of significant conferences. I have attended most of the meetings and have found them to be, without exception, important theological events. Not only has the intellectual caliber of the meetings been uniformly high, but the fellowship has always been warm and engaging.

"Further, the focus of much of what has gone on in the Karl Barth Society of North America meetings advances Barth's own concern that theology be in the service of the preaching of the church. I am confident that this year's conference will continue in this tradition."

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The schedule for the Elmhurst conference is as follows:

• Thursday, June 8:

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|-----------|--|
| 1:30 p.m. | Registration at the College Union (Frick Center) |
| 2:00 | John Howard Yoder |
| 4:00 | Reception |
| 6:00 | Banquet |
| 7:00 | Walter Lowe |

• **Friday, June 9:**

8:30 a.m. George Hunsinger
10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Scott Rodin
1:00 p.m. Adjournment

FEEES

The registration fee for the conference is \$35, with a lower rate (\$20) for students and retirees. For those who wish to attend, the cost of the Thursday evening banquet is \$14.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Housing is available either on campus or in local motels:

Accommodations in Elmhurst College dormitories are available at a rate of \$22 for a single room or \$15 per person for a double room. There is no air conditioning.

Courtyard by Marriott, located at 370 N. Route 83 at North Avenue, Elmhurst, has single rooms for \$69 (+ 9% tax) and double rooms for \$79 (+ 9% tax). This motel features an indoor pool. A hot breakfast is available for about \$5, but there is no other food service. Telephone **708/941-9444**. Mention Elmhurst College for this special rate.

Days Inn, 600 E. Lake Street in Addison, Illinois, offers rates of \$40 (+ 10% tax) for a single room, and \$45 (+ 10% tax) for double rooms. A complimentary continental breakfast is provided. There is a restaurant adjacent to the motel. Telephone **708/834-8800**. Mention Elmhurst College for this special rate; an Elmhurst College business card must also be presented.

Persons planning to stay off campus should make their own arrangements directly with the motel.

REGISTRATION

While on-site registration for the conference will be accepted, advance registration is preferred to facilitate planning. "If possible we would appreciate prepayment of the registration fee," Goetz noted. Prepayment for dorm accommodations and the banquet is not necessary.

To register, mail the registration form below:

Registration Form for the KBSNA Conference

Return to Ron Goetz, Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect,
Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fee: _____ Enclosed
(Make check payable to *Karl Barth Society*)

Dorm Accommodations Needed? _____ Yes _____ No

Attending Banquet? _____ Yes _____ No

EXECUTIVE CONVENES IN ELMHURST

David Demson, KBSNA Secretary, has scheduled a meeting of the Executive of the Karl Barth Society of North America at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 8, at Elmhurst College.

The agenda includes the following items: the 1996 Barth conference; long range planning for the International Barth Conference in 2000; the Barth Archive; discussion of the character of the annual conference; proposal about alternate members of the Executive; proposal for the AAR sessions of the KBSNA; commemoration of the life and work of Markus Barth; the 25th anniversary of the KBSNA; and support for the Barth- Brunner correspondence (1916-65) volume.

**Paul Molnar to publish paper on Trinity,
book on Barth's doctrine of Lord's Supper**

The KBS program at last year's AAR Annual Meeting in Chicago featured a presentation by Paul Molnar (St. John's University), entitled "Toward a Contemporary Doctrine of the Immanent Trinity: Karl Barth and the Present Discussion."

Prof. Molnar writes that a revised version of his paper has been accepted for publication in the *Scottish Journal of Theology*.

He reports that he is currently preparing for publication a book on *Karl Barth and the Theology of the Lord's Supper* (Peter Lang) and also plans to develop his paper on the Trinity into a book manuscript.

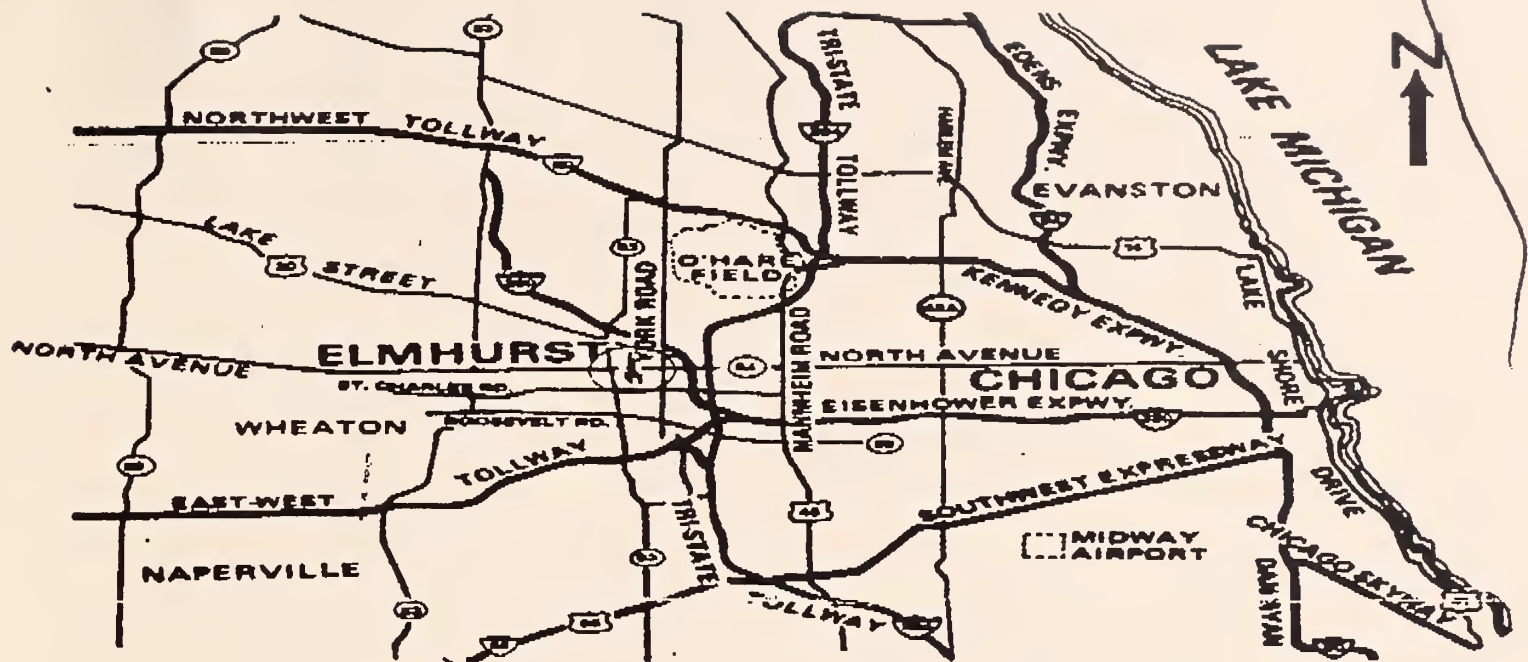
Peter Lang announces new series

Paul Molnar, Professor of Theology at St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y., has been invited by Peter Lang publishers to be general editor of a series entitled *Issues in Systematic Theology*. He enclosed the following description of the series:

"This series emphasizes issues in contemporary systematic theology but is open to theological issues from the past. Works in this series seek to explore such issues as the relation of reason and revelation, experience and doctrine, the meaning of revelation, method in theology, trinitarian theology, the doctrine of God, Christology, sacraments, and the Church.

"Of course other issues such as ecumenical relations or specific doctrinal studies on topics such as predestination or studies evaluating particular influential theologians may be considered.

"Authors whose work is critical, constructive, and ecumenical are encouraged to consider this series. One of the aims of the series is to illustrate that Christian systematic theologians from different denominations may seek and find Christian unity through dialogue on those central issues which unite them in their quest for truth."



ELMHURST AND VICINITY

Elmhurst College is located 16 miles west of downtown Chicago and six miles southwest of O'Hare International Airport. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad terminal is two blocks from the campus. A number of major highways pass from all directions within two miles of the College.

From the North: Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to the exit marked "I-290 West—U.S. 20—Ill. 64". Exit immediately at "Illinois 64—West (North Avenue)" and proceed two miles to stoplight at Myrtle. Turn south and proceed across the railroad tracks to the campus.

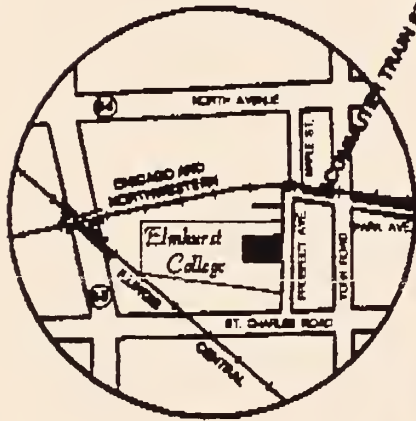
From the East: on Eisenhower Expressway, follow signs marked "I-290 West/Rockford". Exit I-290 at St. Charles Road West. Proceed 1.5 miles to Prospect, turn north to campus.

From the South: Tri-State Tollway (I-294) past the Cermak Road plaza to the exit marked "I-290—West/U.S. 20—Lake/Ill. 64—North Avenue". Proceed north on I-290 to St. Charles Road West, then to Prospect, then north to campus.

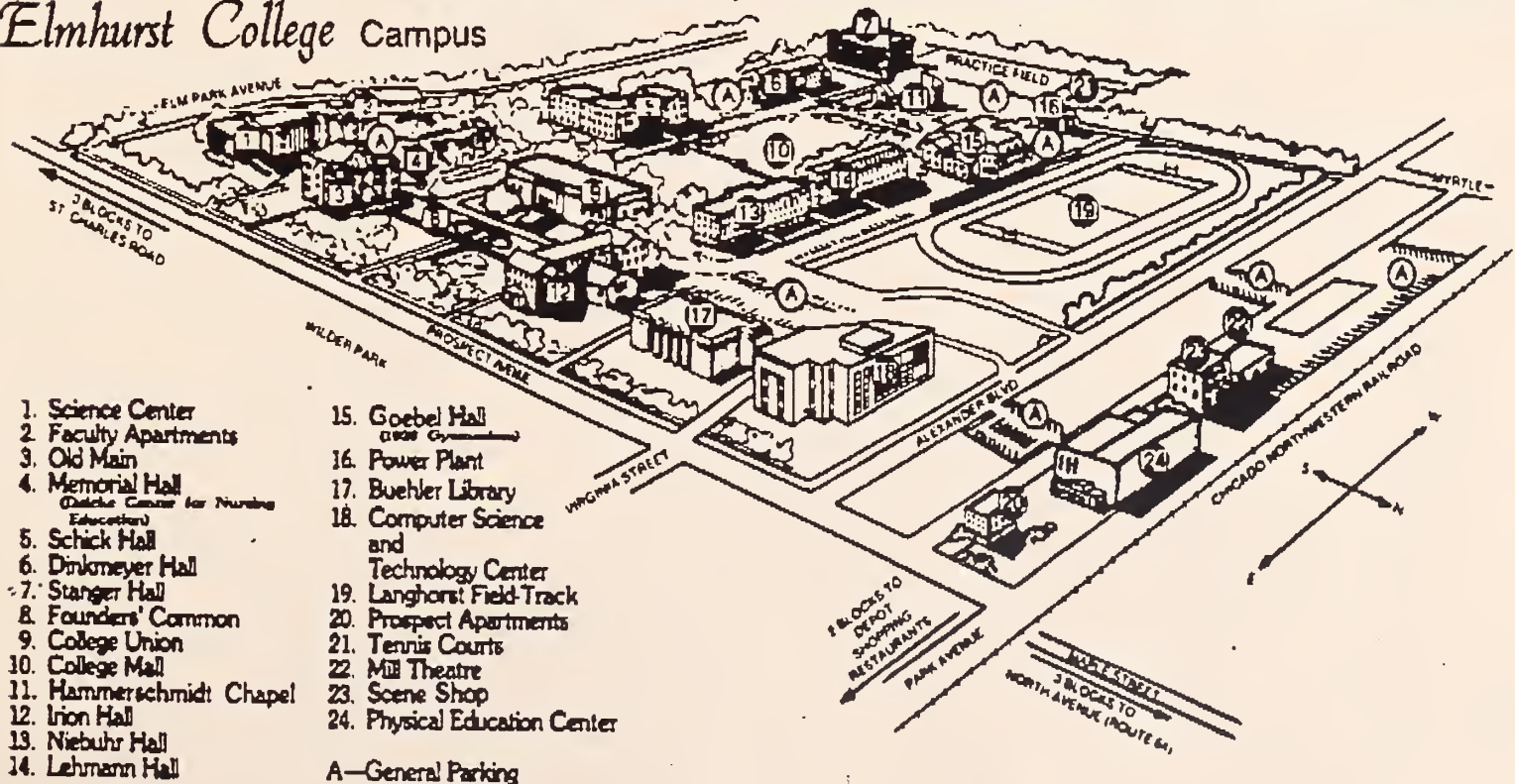
From the West: East-West Tollway (I-88), past Oak Brook Plaza to the Tri-State South (I-294). Exit at York Road, and proceed north on York to St. Charles Road. Turn west to Prospect, then north to campus.

From the Northwest: I-290 to Illinois 63 South. Turn east at North Avenue (first stoplight), and proceed to West Avenue. Turn south and proceed over railroad tracks to Alexander Blvd. Then travel east again approximately one-half mile to campus.

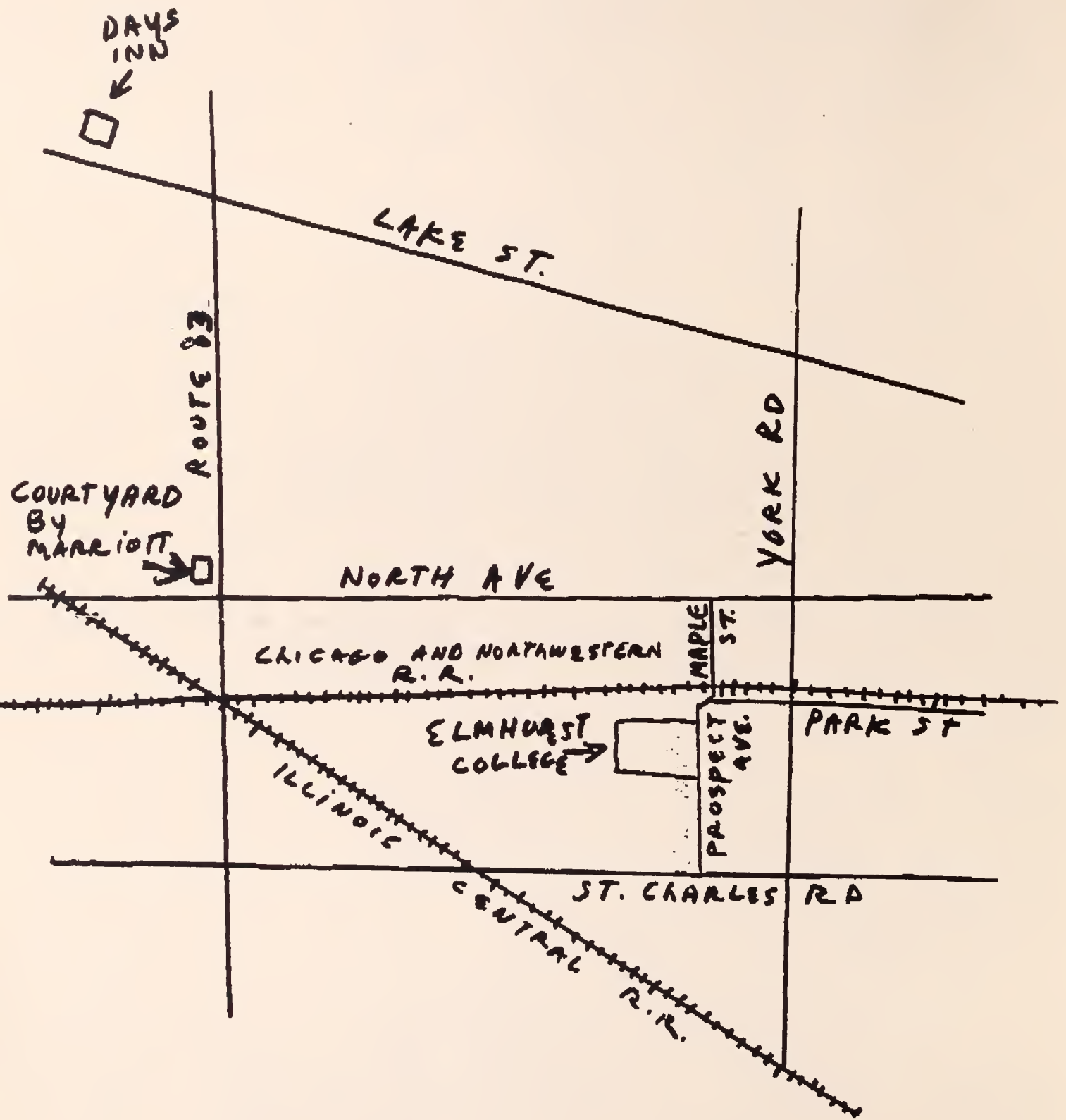
From the Southwest: Illinois 63 North to St. Charles Road. Then travel east to Prospect, then north to campus.



Elmhurst College Campus



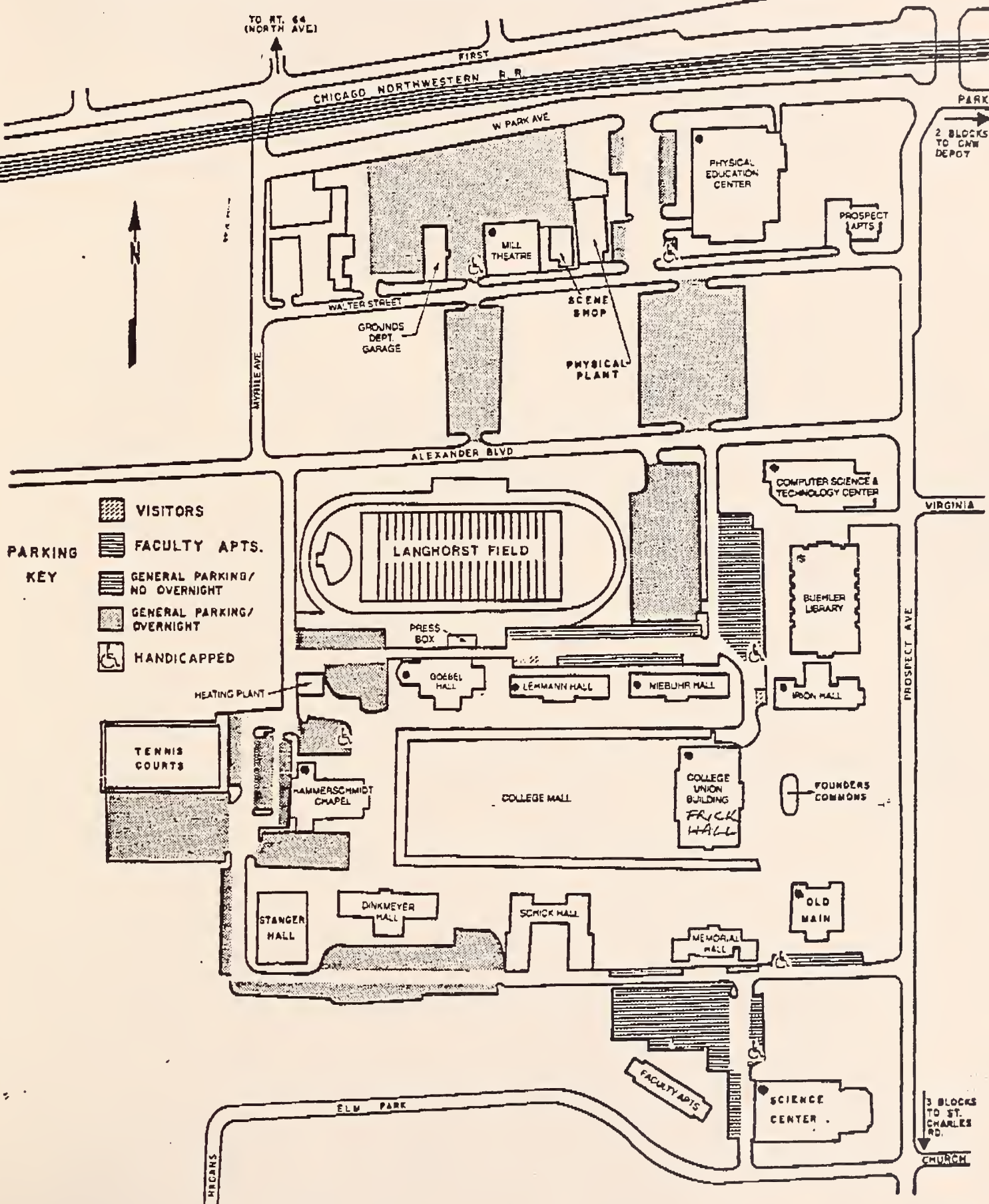
1. Science Center
 2. Faculty Apartments
 3. Old Main
 4. Memorial Hall
(Dietrich Center for Nursing Education)
 5. Schick Hall
 6. Dinkmeyer Hall
 7. Stanger Hall
 8. Founders' Common
 9. College Union
 10. College Mall
 11. Hammerschmidt Chapel
 12. Irion Hall
 13. Niebuhr Hall
 14. Lehmann Hall
 15. Goebel Hall
(1928 Gymnasium)
 16. Power Plant
 17. Buehler Library
 18. Computer Science and Technology Center
 19. Langhorst Field-Track
 20. Prospect Apartments
 21. Tennis Courts
 22. Mill Theatre
 23. Scene Shop
 24. Physical Education Center
- A—General Parking



ELMHURST COLLEGE

CAMPUS MAP

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*A clarification:***McKelway and the Massachusetts ministers**

In the last issue of the Newsletter we featured an item about activities of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers, including a discussion at its 10th Annual Summer Barth Session for Pastors last June between Alexander McKelway and Horace Allen concerning published comments by McKelway and Walter Brueggemann on the "Re-imagining" controversy.

A recent letter from Prof. McKelway offers this clarification:

"I would not want my colleagues in the society to imagine that the Convention thought it worthwhile to invite me, or that I thought it worthwhile to travel to Boston, merely to discuss a journalistic exchange between myself and Brueggemann concerning the 'Re-imagining' affair. My first assignment was to lead a seminar discussion of Barth's concept of *das Nichtige*. The Minneapolis discussion was peripheral, if also interesting, as Barth might say, 'in its own way.'"

Prof. McKelway's letter also contained this comment on the work of the Newsletter and the Karl Barth Society:

"You ought to take some satisfaction in observing the steady increase of interest in Barth among members of the AAR. We are no longer such a strange crowd. This development is all the more striking in light of the trajectory of the theological majority—to which it forms a welcome contrast."

McCormack book published

Bruce McCormack's book *Karl Barth's Critically Realistic Dialectical Theology: Its Genesis and Development 1909-1936* has just been published by Oxford University Press. Prof. McCormack describes it as "an exercise in intellectual biography" which seeks to provide a "genetic-historical" analysis of Barth's theological development. Those who heard Bruce's paper at last fall's AAR program (summarized in the last issue of this Newsletter) will recognize the theses being presented.

The central goal here will be to demonstrate that the "turn" to a "neo-orthodox" form of theology which is usually thought to have taken place with the *Church Dogmatics* in 1931-2 is a chimera. There was no such turn. Subsequent to his break with "liberalism" in 1915, Barth became...a critically realistic dialectical theologian—and that is what he remained throughout his life....Where that has not been grasped, virtually the whole of Barth's theology has been read in the wrong light. (Preface, pp. vii-viii)

Concerning the conference theme

In his essay "An Appreciation of Karl Barth" (published in the centennial volume *How Karl Barth Changed My Mind*, edited by Donald McKim), Langdon Gilkey wrote:

I am impressed with his uncanny "feel" for our cultural and historical situation.... He understood modernity long before most philosophers and other theologians did; he saw its intellectual and moral dilemmas, the collapse of its confidence in rationality and goodness, even its sense of helplessness and fatedness, with great clarity while most were still dreaming of civilization's control over its destiny and so of progress. (p. 153)

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